

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 759

By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to commend Congressman John Tanner for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee and the citizens of the United States on the occasion of his retirement from service as a member of the United States House of Representatives.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Congressman John Tanner is one such venerable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, for the past twenty-one years, Congressman Tanner has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the good citizens of Tennessee's Eighth Congressional District, who have evinced their firm belief in Congressman Tanner abilities as a legislator by electing him to serve eleven terms as their representative to Congress; and

WHEREAS, educated in the public schools of Union City, John Tanner entered the University of Tennessee on a basketball scholarship in 1962 and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Tanner earned his law degree from the University of Tennessee School of Law in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Congressman John Tanner has led an exemplary and heroic life dedicated to the service of this great state and nation; he served as a lieutenant in the United States Navy from 1968-1972 and after being honorably discharged entered the Tennessee Army National Guard in 1972, retiring in 2000 at the rank of colonel; and

WHEREAS, he is also one of the few members of the United States Congress to have served on the Boards of Visitors for the United States Naval Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, and the United States Military Academy; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Tanner currently serves on the House Ways and Means Committee, where he chairs the Social Security Subcommittee, and the House Foreign Affairs Committee; and

WHEREAS, he also served with distinction in his role as Chief Deputy Whip for the House Democratic Caucus in the 109th, 110th, and 111th Congresses; and

WHEREAS, recognized as an influential and respected leader, legislators from all NATO-member nations elected John Tanner in November of 2008 to serve as president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the alliance's legislative branch; and

WHEREAS, as co-founder of a group of moderate-to-conservative US House Democrats known as the Blue Dog Coalition, Congressman Tanner is considered a leader in the fight for fiscal responsibility and pro-growth economic policies; and

WHEREAS, prior to his exemplary tenure in Congress, John Tanner was an outstanding member of this General Assembly, honorably representing House District 77 from 1976 until 1988; and

WHEREAS, throughout his long and distinguished career as a public servant, John Tanner has worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents, the citizens of Tennessee, and all Americans, bringing to his office an honorable bearing and the time-honored values of hard work and common sense; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Tanner is perhaps most appreciative of the love and support he shares with his wife, Betty Ann, their two children, Elizabeth Tanner Atkins and John Portis Tanner, and their four grandchildren, Abby Frances Atkins, Tanner Lantrip Atkins, Beck Counce Tanner, and Edith Dorothy Tanner; and

WHEREAS, an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, John Tanner epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Tanner is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized upon the completion of his impressive congressional career; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that on the occasion of his retirement from the US Congress, we hereby honor and commend Congressman John Tanner for his meritorious service to the people of Tennessee and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.